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Dated: October 16, 2003

Signature:

(Carol M. Gruppi)

Docket No.: 220002056723

(PATENT)

Client Ref: 98-128-5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
H. Kirk HAMMOND et al.

Application No.: 09/750,240

Art Unit: 1632

Filed: December 26, 2000

Examiner: M. Wilson

For: GENE THERAPY FOR CONGESTIVE HEART
FAILURE

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated April 16, 2003 (Paper No. 4), for which a response was due on September 16, 2003. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for three month(s) extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to October 16, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.